



**RUDOLPH PLEADS GUILTY TO BOMBINGS  
IN ATLANTA AND BIRMINGHAM**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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David E. Nahmias, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia, and Alice H. Martin, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama; Gregory Jones and Carmen Adams, Special Agents in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Atlanta and Birmingham Divisions; and Vanessa McLemore and James Cavanaugh, Special Agents in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Atlanta and Nashville Divisions, announce that ERIC ROBERT RUDOLPH, 38, of Murphy, North Carolina, today pleaded guilty to a series of bombings between 1996 and 1998.

RUDOLPH was indicted in the Northern District of Georgia for the fatal bombing at Centennial Olympic Park on July 27, 1996, which killed Olympic spectator Alice Hawthorne and seriously injured more than 100 other people; the bombing of a Sandy Springs, Georgia, family planning clinic on Jan. 16, 1997, which injured more than 50 people; and the bombing of a Midtown Atlanta nightclub, the Otherside Lounge, on Feb. 21, 1997, which injured five people. RUDOLPH also was indicted in the Northern District of Alabama for the fatal bombing of a Birmingham family planning clinic on Jan. 29, 1998, which killed Birmingham Police Officer Robert Sanderson and critically injured nurse Emily Lyons.

In Birmingham, RUDOLPH pleaded guilty to the bombing charged in the Northern District of Alabama indictment this morning before United States District Judge Lynwood Smith. The United States Marshal's Service then transported RUDOLPH to Atlanta, where he pleaded guilty this

afternoon to the bombings charged in the Northern District of Georgia indictment before United States District Judge Charles Pannell.

According to United States Attorneys David E. Nahmias and Alice H. Martin, on April 4, 2005, RUDOLPH executed plea agreements with the United States Attorney's Offices for the Northern Districts of Georgia and Alabama in which he agreed to plead guilty to the three Atlanta bombing attacks and the Birmingham bombing attack and waive all appeals. The Plea Agreements provide for multiple life sentences for RUDOLPH without the possibility of parole.

Pursuant to the Plea Agreements, RUDOLPH disclosed to the government the existence and locations of more than 250 pounds of dynamite buried in several locations in the Western North Carolina area. Three of the locations were relatively near populated areas, including one location in which RUDOLPH disclosed that he buried a completely constructed bomb with a detached detonator across the street from the National Guard Armory in Murphy, North Carolina. The Armory was a command post for the Southeast Bomb Task Force, which investigated the Atlanta and Birmingham bombings. The other locations of hidden dynamite and materials were in the Nantahala National Forest in areas used by the public for recreation, such as hunting, hiking and camping. As required by the Plea Agreements, RUDOLPH described the locations of the explosives and other dangerous materials, and provided other information necessary for the government to find the locations and conduct render-safe procedures.

In response to this information, the FBI and ATF immediately dispatched search teams to locate the dynamite and hidden bomb. At the first site, the search teams - with the assistance of other federal agencies and state and local law enforcement in Western North Carolina - located the bomb, which contained approximately 25 pounds of nitroglycerin dynamite, approximately 20 pounds of screws as shrapnel, and an improvised remote control firing system. At the second site, the search teams located two ammo cans filled with various tools and bomb components, including partially manufactured detonators, fuse, wire, aluminum tubes, batteries, battery holders, extension cord, wireless paging system, plastic containers, servo, wire strippers, pliers and screwdrivers. Site

three revealed containers with a partially constructed bomb, other bomb components and approximately 38 pounds of nitroglycerin dynamite. The search teams located two other caches containing approximately 110 and 88 pounds of nitroglycerin dynamite, respectively.

A “render-safe” team consisting of FBI and ATF explosives experts removed the tools and bomb components. Because of the instability and volatility of the nitroglycerin dynamite, the render-safe team used a counter-charge to detonate and destroy the dynamite. This process made those sites safe again for the public’s use.

The Department of Justice would like to commend all of the federal, state and local law enforcement agencies for their search and render-safe efforts in this matter. The Department of Justice also would like to thank the citizens of Murphy, North Carolina and the surrounding area for their ongoing cooperation with all of these law enforcement agencies as we worked together to protect the safety of the community.

In Atlanta, United States Attorney David Nahmias said, “On July 27, 1996, less than a mile from here in Centennial Olympic Park, Eric Robert Rudolph began his reign of terror by placing a huge pipebomb wrapped with nails in a park where 50,000 people were celebrating the Atlanta Olympic Games. When the bomb exploded it killed an innocent 44-year old wife and mother, Alice Stubbs Hawthorne, seriously injured more than 100 other people, and put a permanent black ribbon on the memory of the biggest event in this city’s history. Today Eric Rudolph’s reign of terror ended in courts of law and justice. It ended with certainty, immediacy, finality, and protection of public safety. Eric Rudolph has admitted that he is guilty of all four bombings in Atlanta and Birmingham. There can be no doubt anymore about who was responsible for those crimes, and no uncertainty about the results of long and complex trials. Eric Rudolph is guilty today. There will be no further delays in obtaining justice for the public and the many victims of his terrorist acts. Eric Rudolph is guilty forever more. There will be no long appeals. And Eric Rudolph is no longer a threat to the public.”

In Birmingham, United States Attorney Alice H. Martin said, "This has been a difficult day for our survivors, but they continue to show great strength and resolve. It is through that strength and resolve, and the tireless efforts of hundreds in law enforcement, that the hope for justice prevailed today. Today, I want to publicly thank the eyewitnesses in Birmingham that, on the morning of January 29, 1998, took the time to 'get involved' and follow Rudolph through the streets of Birmingham as he ran from his crime. It was their descriptions and the license tag they wrote down that lead authorities to Rudolph. On that day, they made a difference - not only in their community of Birmingham - but many miles away to hundreds of victims of the 1996 and 1997 Atlanta bombings."

Atlanta FBI Special Agent In Charge Greg Jones said, "While we are pleased with the conviction in this case, our pleasure is tempered by the remembrance of those who have suffered and lost loved ones. It is our hope that today's proceedings will serve to honor the memory of Alice Hawthorne, as well as to help heal the physical and emotional wounds inflicted upon so many of Atlanta's residents and visitors. While no court of law or law enforcement agency can bring back a family member or wash away the trauma of the past, we hope there is some comfort among victims and their families in knowing that justice has been served."

Carmen S. Adams, Birmingham FBI Special Agent In Charge said, "This enormous effort, which began in 1998, involved strategic and tactical operations in several states and involved numerous agencies at the federal, state, and local levels. All agencies involved should be commended for their outstanding efforts."

Atlanta ATF Special Agent In Charge Vanessa McLemore said, "Guilty pleas and successful prosecutions always validate ATF's investigative techniques and lab analysis, as well as insuring to the public ATF's dedication to them and concern for all victims. That dedication was shown particularly in this case, as ATF and other agents risked their lives in North Carolina to recover dangerous and potentially fatal explosives. ATF's long-term commitment to this case has included countless victim and witness interviews, meticulous evidence collection, identification and analysis

of explosives evidence, and detailed reconstruction of explosive devices, all of which has proven critical in this case. But it is the dedication of the men and women of the ATF to the victims that will always sustain our mission.”

James M. Cavanaugh, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) - Nashville Field Division, said, “Today's judicial actions are a culmination of great teamwork among the numerous agencies to bring a violent criminal to justice. ATF remains steadfast in our goal to protect the public and reduce violent crime and will continue to do so with the help of our federal, state, and local partners.”

The United States Attorneys' Offices for the Northern Districts of Georgia and Alabama established phone lines for victims of the bombings to receive updated information about the plea and upcoming sentencing: for the victims of the three Atlanta bombings, the toll-free number is (866) 290-2782; victims of the Birmingham bombing may contact (205) 244-2015. News conferences were held in both Atlanta and Birmingham after the pleas were entered, and photos from the render-safe operation are available on the internet at [www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov).

Special Agents of the FBI and the ATF investigated these cases and conducted the search and render-safe operations. Several other law enforcement agencies participated in the operations in North Carolina, including the United States Forest Service and the National Park Service; the North Carolina Highway Patrol; the Sheriff's Office in Cherokee County; North Carolina State Bureau of Investigations; and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources.

The Atlanta case was prosecuted by United States Attorney David E. Nahmias, First Assistant United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates, and Assistant United States Attorneys Phyllis B. Sumner, R. Joseph Burby IV and John Horn of the Northern District of Georgia. The Birmingham case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Michael W. Whisonant and William R. Chambers of the Northern District of Alabama, and R. Joseph Burby IV of the Northern District of Georgia.

For further information about the Atlanta case, please contact David E. Nahmias, United

States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is [www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan). For further information about the Birmingham case, please contact Alice H. Martin, United States Attorney, through Edna Clark, Public Information Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (205) 244-2015. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Alabama is [www.usdoj.gov/usao/aln](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/aln).